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Case K 223

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Matthias Franzreb

Title: DEVICE FOR MAGNETICALLY CONTROLLED ELECTRODE IONIZATION

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 3, 2004

SIR:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - SECTION 1.97(b)

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56, and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.97 and 1.98, applicants' representative hereby submits US Patent & Trademark Office Form PTO-1449. Copies of the references cited therein are submitted for consideration in the examination of the above-referenced patent application. It is respectfully requested that they be made of record, along with whatever references the Examiner may find in the course of a search, should the Examiner consider them material to the subject application.

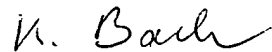
The publications have been cited in the International Search Report. However, they were all marked "A" as relating only to background information.

They do not disclose that in a device for electro-deionization (EDI) in the demineralization of aqueous solutions, which device includes ion exchange membranes arranged alternately and in spaced relationship so that between the membranes compartments are formed of which at least some are filled with cation and anion resin exchange particle fractions forming a mixed bed ion exchanger, the ion exchange resin particles of one of the two fractions include a magnetic material and a magnetic field

generator is provided for generating a field for orienting the magnetic resin particles and arranging them in parallel chains extending between the membranes.

This Statement is hereby submitted under Section 1.97(b) since it is being submitted concurrently with the filing of the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "K. Bach".

Klaus J. Bach, Reg. No.: 26832

